

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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R 211004Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 2083

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 12459

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC (HUBERMAN,MARY)
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING AND RELEASE OF AMCIT IN ETHIOPIA

1. IN LATE NOVEMBER, AN AMERICAN WOMAN, MARY HUBERMAN, WAS BRIEFLY HELD CAPTIVE IN A GAME PARK IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIAN BY A DISSIDENT GROUP, THEN RELEASED. TWO OTHERS WERE HELD AT SAME TIME, A WEST GERMAN, GUNTHER WEBER, AND AN AUSTRALIAN, IAN KEIGHTLEY, AND ALSO RELEASED.

2. WEBER HAS SINCE RETURNED TO ADDIS. DURING COURSE OF A DEBRIEF ON DEC 18 WITH FRG, BRITISH AND AMRICAN CONOFFS, WEBER INTER ALIA SAID HE HAD BEEN SENDING NOTES OF HIS TRAVELS TO HIS BROTHER IN FRG (NAME AND PLACE UNRECORDED) INCLUDING STORY OF KIDNAPPING, WITH HOPE THAT HIS BROTHER WILL HAVE THEM PUBLISHED.

3. WHILE STORY OF BRIEF DETENTION IS NOW FAIRLY COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN ADDIS, IT HAS NOT APPEARED IN PRINT ANYWHERE IN OR OUT OF ETHIOPIA TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND WE DOUBT ETHIOPIANS WILL BE VERY PLEASED IF IT DOES, PARTICULARLY IF IT SHOULD INCLUDE SYMPATHETIC NOISES FOR CAUSE OF CAPTORS (AS CAPTORS APPARENTLY WANTED CAPTIVES TO DO). SINCE WE BELIEVE HUBERMAN IS STILL IN ETHIOPIA, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW IF NAY STORY DOES APPEAR IN GERMAN PRESS, AND WOULD

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THEREFOR APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD CHECK FOR US A) WHETHER ANY MAJOR GERMAN NEWSPATER HAS ALREADY CARRIED SUCH AN ARTICLE OR B) DOES SO DURING NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS IN PARTICULAR,AND TELEGRAPH US TEXT OR SUBSTANCE.

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Message Attributes

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